THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways are changing over to colour light and automatic signalling, track circuiting, route relay and panel interlocking systems on a need based programme to coincide with replacements and other system upgradation plans.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) At present provision of electrical interloking at 95 stations, automatic signalling for 56.06 Kms. and automatic block clearance at 118 stations are in progress on various zones.

(e) In 1993-94, rupees seventy crores have been earmarked for signalling works.

Railway Terminal betweetn Guwahati and Tinsukhia

2496. SHRI VIZOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway terminal between Guwahati and Tinsukhia was provided about a hundred years ago;

(d) whether Government propose to improvement with regard to passenger amenities has since been made in North-Eastern region except conversion of Railway section between Guwahati to Lumding from metre gauge to broad gauge;

(c) whether this conversion work has not yet been completed even after a lapse of more than two years;

(d) whether Government propose to undertake conversion of other metre gauge sections of North-Eastern Region in to broad gauge connected upto Tinsukhia; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The work of conversion of Guwahati-Lumding has since been completed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Gauge conversion of Chapramukh-Haibargaon and Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked branch lines is in prograss. Gauge conversion of Rangiya-Markongselek with branches to Bhalukpong/Tinsukia are included in the Action Plan and would also be taken up in the coming years.

Direct link of Chandigarh with Metropolitan Cities

2497. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chandigarh is the only Capital city which is not directly linked with any of the metropolitan cities of the country such as Bombay, Madras or Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) Chandigarh is already connected by direct trains with New Delhi and Howrah. However, provision of direct trains between Chandigarh and Bombay/Madras is presently not feasible due to operational constraints and lack of resources.

Proposal to link Chandigarh with main line via Rajpura, Punjab

2498. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to link Chandigarh which the main line via Rajpura in Punjab:

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?